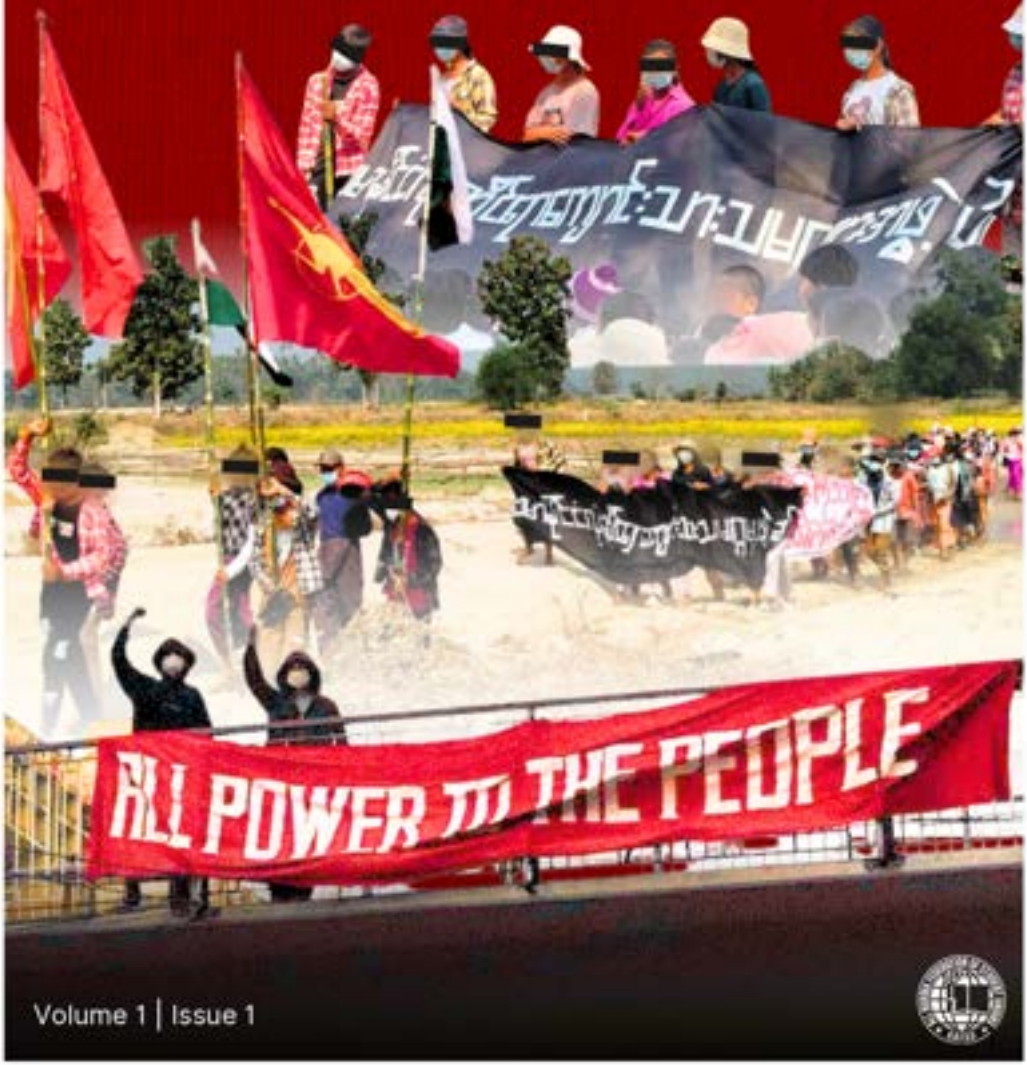
BURMA UPDATES

ALL BURMA FEDERATION OF STUDENT UNIONS



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FROM THE TEAM

As we commemorate the fourth anniversary of the fascist military coup in Burma, we reflect on the tremendous sacrifices made by our people in the face of relentless oppression. These years have been marked by violence, displacement, and the undying spirit of resistance. The struggle for freedom in Burma is far from over. Our fight for democracy and justice is deeply interconnected to the international struggle against imperialism and fascism. The military junta's brutal repression has forced millions of Burmese into exile. Thousands of refugees have sought safety in countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and the U.S., where they continue to endure harsh conditions, uncertainty, alienation, and the trauma of fleeing their homeland. This suffering is a direct result of the junta's violent crackdown and forced military conscription law, which has forced families to flee in search of a future free from terror. As we stand in unwavering unity with our fellow Burmese brothers and sisters, we also extend our solidarity to all refugees and migrants worldwide who are fleeing oppression and violence.

The struggle for justice in Burma is not an isolated issue—it is part of a larger global battle against the rise of fascism, militarism, and imperialism. Under the Trump administration, the U.S. government targeted migrants with policies that mirror the military junta's tactics of violence, intimidation, and control. From mass deportations to the criminalization of migrant communities, the U.S. government employed a militarized approach to borders that mirrors the actions of the Burmese military. Executive orders like 13899, which sought to deport international students simply for exercising their First Amendment rights against an ongoing U.S.-backed genocide in Palestine, reflect a global pattern of repression. Reports have surfaced regarding the deportation of Chinese international students, such as Liu Lijun from UCLA, after their involvement in pro-Palestinian protests. In both Burma and the United States, these policies are designed to silence those who speak out for justice and liberation. The chains of imperialism are long, and they stretch from Burma to the Philippines, from the U.S. to every corner of the globe where the rich and powerful maintain their control through force.

It is in this context that we started this publication—to link our struggle

for freedom and justice in Burma with the larger international fight against oppression, imperialism, and fascism. By raising our voices in this publication, we aim to connect the dots between the ongoing crisis in Burma and the struggles faced by the oppressed people of the world. We must unite in the face of these international challenges. The fight for democracy in Burma is inseparable from the fight against the militarization of borders, the criminalization of migrants, and the rise of fascism worldwide. The suffering of Burmese refugees in Thailand, the brutality faced by migrants in the U.S., and the oppression of all marginalized peoples are all part of the same global struggle for freedom and dignity.

The junta in Burma has long abused the 2008 constitution to maintain its grip on power, and now it prepares to hold sham elections to give the false impression of legitimacy. These elections will not bring peace, justice, or democracy to Burma. We must continue to resist this farce and fight for a true democratic future, where the people—not the military—hold power. The junta's reliance on the Yadanar Gas Pipeline to fund its brutal repression is a stark reminder of the global economic forces that support military dictatorships. Corporations and governments continue to profit from Burma's resources, sustaining a regime that thrives on violence and exploitation. Now the military junta is kidnapping/conscripting the youth and students as cannon fodder to replenish their dwindling ranks as they are facing defeats after defeat.

In this context, international solidarity is not just a sentiment—it is a necessary action. The international struggle for justice must encompass the fight for Burmese refugees around the world, migrants in the U.S., and all oppressed people who seek a dignified life free from violence and exploitation. As fascism rises across the globe, we must unite to fight its spread. Our victory in Burma will be a victory for all oppressed people.

The youth and students of Burma vow to continue the fight for a People's Democratic Revolution. We will never stop fighting until the military dictatorship is dismantled and the people of Burma are free. We must unite, we must fight back, and we must destroy the chains of oppression that bind us.

STATEMENT

All Burma Federation of Student Unions
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STATEMENT ON THE FOURTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE FASCIST MILITARY'S COUP

Statement: 2/ABFSU/2025
Date: 2025 February 1

To the masses and comrades waging the people's democratic revolution,

Today marks the fourth year anniversary of the fascist military coup d'état. These years are filled with numerous losses and sacrifices for us all. It is clear that the revolutionary forces, unlike before, are not subjected to one sided attacks and losses. The launch of offensive campaigns against the military council by the ethnic revolutionary organizations in 2024 have resulted in significant victories after victories. The military junta is facing losses on every front. They face defeat on the Northern Shan front. The face defeat on the Rakhine font. They are also losing their Regional Military Commands. There have been open condemnation and attacks from within the Military against their own military coup leader Min Aung Hlaing. The fascist military is clearly becoming more and more disorganized than before. On the other hand, the fascist military, driven by a vengeful mindset while declaring with intention to kill everyone involved 'all is well as long as the land remains,' is targeting and destroying the areas they were forced to abandon. They continue to murder unarmed civilians and scorch the people's property and villages to the ground just as they have done before.

The military in an attempt to bolster its dwindling numbers has begun to enact the forced military conscription law [dragooning]. According to the law, enacted in coercion, only youth aged 18- 35 are eligible to be conscripted, but in reality, people are getting kidnapped and arrested and forced to serve in their military regardless of their ages and genders occasionally. They've also stopped young people of conscription age from leaving the country to avoid forced military service or looking for work abroad, in light of the ongoing economic crisis. People continue to bear the severe effects of the ongoing crisis, with rising commodity prices, a plummeting Burmese currency, business collapses, widespread unemployment, and a growing gap between low wages and skyrocketing costs of living.

On the other hand, the military junta is attempting to find a way out of the political crisis by attempting a sham election. This is the same military that, in a blatant misrepresentation of the facts, falsely claimed widespread support for the 2008 constitutional referendum in order to legitimize its ratification. This is also the same military that monopolizes political power by holding sham elections run and won by themselves and their proxy parties like the Union Solidarity Development Party [USDP]. This 2008 constitution serves and defends

the interest of the military junta. This constitution is systematically written to stop the democratic government from holding any real political power to enact changes in the interest of the people. The most recent military coup serves as proof that the military junta cannot be reformed, muzzled and tamed. The upcoming elections will only serve as a political relief for the military junta, and is nothing more than an attempt to misdirect the masses. Therefore, it is our duty to oppose this sham election that is going to be held by the military junta.

The masses had bravely opposed the military coup through peaceful protests and general strikes. These strikes and the subsequent violent crackdowns by the military have pushe us to the stage of waging armed revolution, which would never be possible without the unwavering support of the masses. It is our duty to serve the masses and to continue waging the people's democratic revolution steadfastly. Only through the united front amongst he revolutionary forces of Burma, it will we be able to dismantle the military dictatorship. We, ABFSU, vow to continue to walk the path of People's Democratic Revolution and uproot military dictatorship. We urge our comrades and allies to stand with the oppressed masses and continue opposing the military dictatorship. Only through the united front amongst the revolutionary forces of Burma, will we be able to dismantle the military dictatorship. We, ABFSU, vow to continue to walk the path of People's Democratic Revolution and uproot military dictatorship. We urge our comrades and allies to stand with the oppressed masses and continue opposing the military dictatorship.

No to Sham Elections
Long live the People's Democratic Revolution

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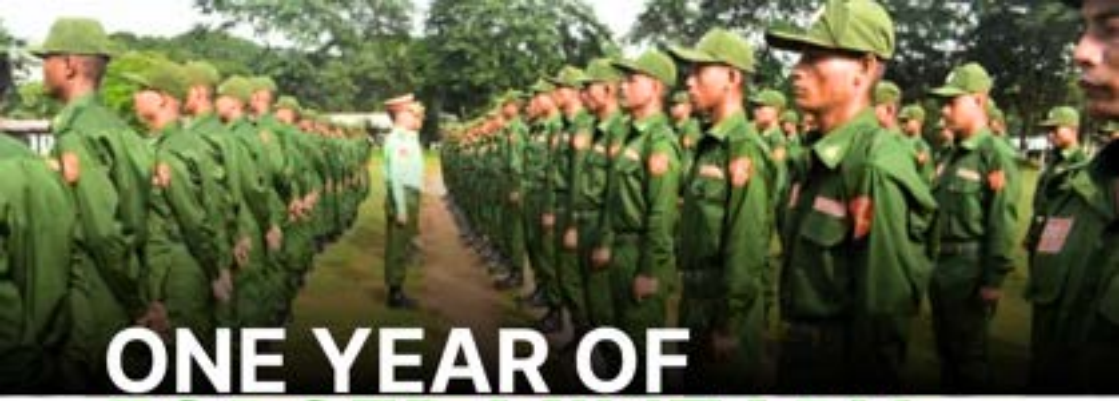

ONE YEAR OF FORCED MILITARY CONSCRIPTION

By Aung Sit Paing

"They dragged the youths onto cars "for questioning." When the people see what's happening and start crowding, they would sometimes let the captured youth go, sometimes they would pull out their guns to threaten the people not to get involved. When taking guest lists, they would slap and assault the people if they were not obedient. When they come to get the youths on the conscription list, they would beat the youths that refused, and if they still refused, they were tased and dragged away," said a resident of Yangon.

The military council's illegal military conscription law has been in effect for a year. "Over the past year, tens of thousands of people have been drafted into the military in successive batches, and the recruitment process has now reached the ninth batch. The military council announced that 5,000 young men would be recruited in each batch, and the total number of recruits has now reached approximately 45,000. Now, even in major cities like Yangon and Mandalay, hundreds of young people are being arrested each month and forced into military conscription.

The people live every day with the anxiety of when the military might come to arrest them or when it's their turn to be conscripted, constantly facing this fear and uncertainty. Now, the military junta arrests and detentions are not limited to just men, even mothers with children are not spared.

The people live every day with the anxiety of when the military might come to arrest them or when it's their turn to be conscripted, constantly facing this fear and uncertainty. Now, the military junta arrests and detentions are not limited to just men, even mothers with children are not spared.

> **"I told them that I'm a mother of a child, hoping to be exempted from the conscription. However, they demanded that I also bring my child to cook for them in the army.**
>
> *- A mother from Monwya*

A mother from Monwya town, who was called for military conscription, said, "I told them that I'm a mother of a child, hoping to be exempted from the conscription. However, they demanded that I also bring my child to cook for them in the army. "

Furthermore, currently, for a youth who has been called up for military conscription, the cost of paying a ransom to avoid conscription ranges from 5 to 10 million Myanmar Kyats. This has become a new trend where the military junta has enacted laws that legitimize the practice of kidnappings and extortion, creating a modern culture where the people pay money to avoid conscription.

Over the past year, how severely have the people been oppressed and forced to endure the brutal consequences of the military conscription law? Because of this law, let us reflect on the immense suffering and turmoil the people of Burma have been forced to endure. First, on February 10, 2024, the military junta forcibly enacted the military conscription law, tightening their grip on the people even further. Just three days later, they established the various levels of the military conscription committee. They also announced plans to conscript 5,000 people every week.

Forcefully conscripted recruits

Source: The Irrawaddy

This was the same time as four months into the peak of

Operation 1027 and a month after the Myanmar military experienced its first-ever mass surrender at the Laukkai Regional Operations Command. Within just two months of enacting the military conscription law, they forcibly conscripted 5,000 young people for the first batch of recruitment. By the end of March, those young recruits were sent to 15 training camps across the country, where they underwent military training, as reported by the Burma Affairs & Conflict Study. While the junta successfully conscripted 5,000 recruits for the first batch, from second batch onward, the process became increasingly difficult, with the number of recruits declining. Unable to stay at home, many young people, especially those over 30, began leaving the country in droves, with large numbers also abandoning their homes to escape and hide.

After the military junta began its conscription efforts under the military conscription law, over 13,000 people conscripted have reached out to join the revolutionary forces. Over 2,000 have joined the revolutionary forces, while more than 1,500 have been forced to relocate to safer areas. Additionally, over 20,000 have applied for Thai visas, as reported in the April 13, 2024, report from the BACS on the weekly military conscription update. Since late April, the numbers have only increased further. The junta has also started to tighten restrictions on travel, making it even harder for people to escape. By early April, conscription efforts for the second batch had begun. Unlike the first week, they couldn't gather a full quota of recruits.

Instead, they rounded up 4,000 people for the second batch, sending them to 16 training camps across the country in May for military training.

By batch 3, the junta's approach to conscription had changed. The process became much more brutal, with their methods growing increasingly harsh. During batches 1 and 2, the conscription process saw widespread corruption and attempts to dodge

conscription, with people paying ransoms to avoid conscription or using various tactics to evade military conscription, causing the junta to lose even more support from the people. Initially, there was widespread fear, but as time passed, people began to see it as a manageable issue and slowly returned to their normal lives. The junta seized the opportunity without hesitation, abandoning the prior practice of giving advance notice like they did in batches 1 and 2. Instead, they suddenly arrived, declaring conscription and began arresting and abducting people without warning. Using various brutal methods, they forcibly rounded up youth. It wasn't just the military—thugs, criminals, and mercenaries were now also used for recruitment by the junta to hunt down and capture people in the cities. In many areas today, even paying ransom to avoid conscription has become nearly impossible.

"In their desperate need for cannon fodder, the military could no longer be swayed by money. The previous practice of giving advance notice was completely abandoned. Instead, they stormed homes, checked guest lists, and immediately dragged those they deemed 'eligible' for conscription without question or due process. This brutal method became widespread, with many people being forcibly taken without warning. Some young people tried to escape, but if they didn't comply, they were beaten severely before being dragged away." said a member of the Mandalay Strike Committee, who has been monitoring and exposing the situation in Mandalay.

During Batches 3, 4, and 5, over 4,000 people were forcibly conscripted each week, accumulating a total of more than 12,000 recruits, according to the BACS report. Over half of those conscripted had already completed their military training. On February 20, 2024, Military junta spokesperson general Zaw Min Tun, announced that those who completed their training would return to their hometowns

and serve exclusively in local security forces, further tightening the grip.

Speaking about the military conscription law, out of every 10 people we have arrested recently, about 8 of them are new soldiers who were conscripted due to the military conscription law. Their service period is usually a maximum of one year. Also, these individuals have only undergone military training for about 3 to 6 months," said an official from the Peoples Revolutionary Alliance, a revolutionary force in Myaung Township.

"In battles, most of the prisoners of war are claiming to be conscripted recruits, most of them are now claiming that. Most of these people are now part of revolutionary forces. Other youths, we observed for a time, until they could be trusted, and sent them back to their parents," said a responsible person from the People's Security Force (PSF).

According to BACS reports, between batches 1 and 9, the military junta has gathered around 40,000 people from within the country to be conscripted as soldiers. These individuals were trained at 23 training camps across the country. There are three main methods the military junta uses to recruit new soldiers. One method involves paying people to recruit others, essentially a form of human trafficking. Another method is the forced abduction of individuals. While some do volunteer to join, their numbers are relatively small.

> ***"In battles, most of the prisoners of war are claiming to be conscripted recruits, most of them are now claiming that. Most of these people are now part of revolutionary forces. Other youths, we observed for a time, until they could be trusted, and sent them back to their parents,"***
>
> -People's Security Force

The current situation is that the arrests for conscription have become even more brutal. In large cities, people are being arrested in groups within a matter of days. In Yangon, over 100 people were arrested within the first 10 days of February this year, according to a responsible person from the Rangoon Scout Network, an

organization monitoring the situation in the city. Similarly, in Mandalay, over 230 people were arrested within the month of February this year, as reported by the Mandalay Strike Force. From October of last year to now, in over four months, more than 1,000 people have been forcibly recruited in Mandalay alone, according to a responsible person from the Mandalay Strike Force. Furthermore, in the large city of Monya in Sagaing Region, between late January and the first week of February, around 400 to 500 people were arrested.

In cities like Yangon and Mandalay, soldiers, police officers, administrators, plainclothes thugs, and informers are working together in coordinated efforts to conscript youth. They are spreading out across the city and moving in groups as part of large-scale arrest operations. In Monya, arrests are taking place not only inside the city but also at the city's entry and exit gates, according to a responsible person from the local police. Generally, arrests are more frequent during the night than at day in the cities. In places with fewer people, arrests also occur early in the morning. At night, people are arrested while being checked off guest lists, and they are also being captured on the streets.

"Even when staying at home, we live in constant fear, not knowing when the soldiers will raid or drag us away. When we step outside, as soon as we reach areas with fewer
people, we are on high alert, watching every move. At night, no place is safe—every step is a risk," said a resident of Yangon.

Rooftop of a slum area
Source: Reuters - Shwe Paw Mya Tin

In Mandalay, the situation is no different. After 7 p.m., unless it's a matter of life and death, no one dares to leave their homes. The streets become eerily empty, as fear has taken control.

After 7 p.m., unless it's a matter of life and death, no one dares to leave their homes. The streets become eerily empty, as fear has taken control.

"Young people no longer return home to sleep in their own beds. The boys who used to return home late at night, as a habit, no longer do. Now, even parents are no longer allowing their sons to come back and sleep at home.

For example, if they hear the announcement of a guest list check, they tell their children, 'Don't come home; stay where you are and sleep there,'" said a resident of Mandalay.

In Yangon, the areas with the highest number of arrests for conscription are the four townships in Dagon, according to the Revolutionary Scout Network representative. In addition, areas like the outskirts and slums continue to be raided frequently.

In Mandalay, based on surveillance reports, the most arrests occur in Pyigyidagon Township and Chan Aye Thar San Township.

Brutal crackdown - February 2021

Source: The Irrawaddy

TRUMP'S USAID PAUSE & IMPACT ON BURMESE REFUGEES

By Nyein Chan Aung

Following the inauguration of the new U.S. president, a policy change implemented on January 27th led to the suspension of USAID for 90 days. As a result, at least seven refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border were forced to halt healthcare services for refugees. The International Rescue Committee (IRC), which supports these camps, has also been suspended, as USAID funds it.

Hospital, clinic, water supply system, the Health Education Center, and the Garbage Collection Center in the refugee camps were all operating with support from the IRC. Due to the suspension of aid, these essential services have ceased, leaving the refugee camps in urgent need of healthcare, including a monthly supply of medicines for HIV, tuberculosis, and other chronic diseases.

In emergencies, whether large or small, refugees are forced to travel for hours to the nearest Thai government hospital to receive medical treatment. Although the camp hospitals and clinics still have drug stocks, strict IRC regulations restrict access, preventing refugees from receiving treatment.

The IRC will continue to cover the salaries of health workers in the refugee camps for January and February, as well as for the following months. However, the health workers are currently on standby, awaiting instructions, and are not permitted to provide healthcare services.

The Thai government has recognized the urgent need for emergency healthcare in the refugee camps and is addressing the issue directly with district authorities. The quality of healthcare in refugee camps varies by district, resulting in different levels of access and support depending on the region.

The Ohm Phyan Refugee Camp will receive emergency healthcare from the Tok district government starting the first week of February. Additionally, five hospitals in the district have begun providing healthcare on a rotating basis, and arrangements for the water supply have been made more accessible, though still limited.

In the Mela Refugee Camp, the district government and camp officials are still working out solutions, and healthcare has been unavailable for the past two weeks. Regarding water supply, each family in the camp must pay monthly for access to tap water, and they are left to handle emergency issues themselves, such as managing self-help systems and burning garbage.

The Thai government has yet to establish a concrete policy for refugees. A Thai medical specialist commented that the health issues of tens of thousands of refugees should be addressed as a national issue rather than handled through district-level authorities.

Since 1980, the Thai Government has opened nine refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, now home to more than 86,000 people. Most are refugees fleeing the war in Karen State and the Karenni region, with others seeking refuge due to the 8888 uprising and the 2007 saffron revolution. UNHCR's program and the refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border have been working on third-country asylum programs, resettling refugees in batches each year. However, a year before the end of former President Biden's term, large

numbers of refugees were being resettled from the camps, but when the new president took office, these activities were halted.

The new president has suspended refugees resettling for 90 days, preventing their resettlement to third countries. Many refugees who had sold their properties are now facing dire circumstances once again.

FOOTSTEPS OF THE DARKEST NIGHTS

By Aung Myint Myat

His name is Ko Kyaw Htet, a 27-year-old youth and a member of an underground revolutionary political organization in Burma, fighting against the oppressive military junta. He became one of the many youths targeted by the brutal "National Conscription Law," a law that forces young people into the military.

"They came knocking on the door of our house. We weren't home at the time, so there was no response, but they started screaming and threatening outside. They said they would come with an army if I didn't show up at the ward office the next morning, where they would randomly select four youths for conscription. At first, both my mother and I panicked," recalls Ko Kyaw Htet.

He is no stranger to loss. Ko Kyaw Htet's father passed away during the second wave of COVID-19, after the coup.

"The military junta wants people to die. They want us to die so we can no longer resist or protest against them. My father died because of COVID-19. Yes, but when you think about it, the true murderer is the military dictatorship. If it weren't for them, the people would've had access to the healthcare they needed. We wouldn't have seen so many deaths. The junta is a killing machine. They only know how to brutally destroy anyone who opposes them, even if it means committing genocide."

Burma during COVID

Source: Reuters

"I don't support the NLD. I didn't vote for them. I didn't vote at all, and I was one of those who criticized them. But, as revolutionary poet Ko K Za Win once wrote, 'I will die fighting for your rights, despite our differences.' Even with my criticism of the NLD, I cannot stand the military coup. It's daylight robbery. It's an insult to the people's votes. We must unite and fight against this dictatorship. They've forced us to pick up arms. They kill those who protest peacefully. We have no choice but to defend ourselves."

The next day, Ko Kyaw Htet went to the ward office where the conscription would take place. There, four youths out of 100 would be chosen for military service. "Three people went ahead of me. They were safe. I was the fourth one to draw from the box. It was a 4/97 chance. I should be safe, right? No. I picked the short straw. Tough luck. I've never won a lucky draw in my life before, and this happens. I hate lucky draws," Ko Kyaw Htet laughs as he recalls the moment.

Both Ko Kyaw Htet and his mother were under immense pressure. His mother wanted to find a way to escape, even suggesting bribery or leaving the country to avoid conscription. However, Ko Kyaw Htet didn't have a passport at the time, which made leaving abroad difficult.

"I never made a passport because I never intended to leave the country. I was worried that my mother might pressure me into leaving for her own protection. But I wanted to stay in the country and fight against the junta. I want to be with my people. I want to fight alongside them."

Ko Kyaw Htet's mother insisted that they leave the country, to live abroad while still supporting the revolution in Burma. Ko Kyaw Htet, however, wanted to stay in a secret hideout in Yangon, continuing his revolutionary work. His comrades suggested that they go to Maesot, Thailand, to stay for a while and consider what to do next. After much persuasion, he agreed and began planning their escape. But rumors spread that intense battles were expected to break out on the route to Maesot. Ko Kyaw Htet and his friends investigated, only to find that the rumors were true. They had no choice but to speed up their escape plans.

They sold everything they had, turning it into cash, and set off early in the morning in March 2024 with a car arranged by Ko Kyaw Htet's comrades. But another problem soon arose. The driver held a National Registration

Card (NRC) from Sagaing Region, which had just been banned from travel by the military junta. The driver's friend held a fake NRC.

When the junta soldiers at a checkpoint discovered the fake document, they extorted money from him. Rumors continued to circulate that battles had already begun along the way. While they were nervously discussing their next move, a friend of Ko Kyaw Htet called and said, "I will come and pick you up no matter what. Wait for me there." His friend came, picked them up, and drove them to Myawaddy. After a month in Maesot, Ko Kyaw Htet and his mother moved to an area controlled by a revolutionary ethnic group.

"I want to fight against the military dictatorship. If I can't do that in urban areas, I will carry on in rural areas. You can contribute a lot to the revolution if you're willing,

even if you're not picking up arms. Many areas controlled by revolutionary groups need help. Some people say the masses have turned their backs on the revolution, or are too frightened by the junta's brutal oppression. I do not agree. The masses' support for the revolution is unwavering. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to continue fighting against the military. We are not the saviors of the people. The people do not owe us anything. It is we who owe them. It is us who must serve the people, not the other way around," says Ko Kyaw Htet.

"My cousin got conscripted. They didn't even bother with a lottery. They just came and dragged him away. He wasn't an activist—just a normal civilian. When it happened, I spoke to his family, suggesting they do whatever they could to get him out. But it didn't work. They had no connections and were too late. So, my cousin is in the Burmese army now, against his will. What I want to say to young people is: if the same happens to you, prioritize your safety, stay calm, don't panic, and avoid being conscripted at all costs.

No one knows what happens next after being conscripted. You could be sent to the frontlines, forced to fight against revolutionary forces. Take your time to think, but make sure you're safe first."

No one knows what happens next after being conscripted. You could be sent to the frontlines, forced to fight against revolutionary forces. Take your time to think, but make sure you're safe first."

Ko Kyaw Htet is not the only one who abandoned his home to avoid conscription. Many young people from Burma are joining revolutionary armies that emerged during the Burmese Spring Revolution, leaving their homes and going abroad to avoid conscription. The military has recently banned young people eligible for conscription from leaving the country. They've even started conscripting young women. While the military denies these actions, our sources on the ground and independent news outlets confirm that the military's denials are nothing more than lies to keep the public calm.

The people of Burma continue to suffer—exploited, oppressed, with their rights violated, facing poverty, war, brutal killings, inhumane interrogations, and torture. The military dictatorship's war machine continues to devastate the country. Students and youths will keep putting their lives on the line, fighting until they finally overthrow the military regime.

This is the story of Ko Kyaw Htet, a young revolutionary who escaped the Myanmar Military's conscription.

BURMA IN DARKNESS
A RETURN TO PREHISTORIC TIMES

By Aung Sit Paing

This is downtown Yangon, people walking on the street with phone flashlights," the video showing a man walking along Sule Pagoda Road in the dark is a sight most people never expected to see. This view is something completely unfamiliar, something never seen in Yangon. The power outage has affected not only residential buildings, which happen from time to time, but even street lights. Now, large areas are completely dark, and people have to walk with flashlights, something
that's never been seen before.

The lack of electricity in a major city like this highlights just how severe the country's current crisis is. It shows the state of affairs where Burma seems to be going backward, reliving experiences from several decades ago. Today, millions of people across the country face not just power cuts but the overall economic, social, and daily challenges that come with it. And the military regime has been giving multiple excuses for these blackouts, which only fuel the growing dissatisfaction of the people day by day.

The Suffering Caused by Power Outages

Power cuts have brought various kinds of suffering. A major impact is seen among city dwellers who depend on electricity for basic needs such as cooking, drinking water, and daily survival. One Yangon resident shared, "The electricity only comes on for about five
minutes every hour. I haven't

been able to cook or sell food for two days. Without electricity, I can't even sell my goods. And the worst part is, we've run out of water as well."

With regular power outages, people face difficulty with basic tasks such as cooking meals and obtaining clean water. Some people report that their children can't go to school, and workers are unable work, affecting their daily lives.

Yangon residents queue for water

Source: Frontier Myanmar

According to the most recent report from the military regime, the population in Yangon is over seven million, and nearly 48% of the country's electricity is distributed on a rotational basis. However, the scheduled times are inconsistent, and electricity often comes and goes unpredictably, leaving residents frustrated. In Mandalay, the situation is similarly dire, with electricity provided for only about two hours each day.

Increased Accidents in the City

Another consequence of the power outages has been a rise in accidents. Without streetlights and proper visibility at night, traffic accidents have become more frequent. A taxi driver from Yangon explained, "I personally witnessed an accident when the lights went out at around 9 PM, and the whole street was pitch dark. Vehicles collided, and it was hard to avoid crashes. Just the other night, a woman was hit by a car while crossing the road in a dark area because the streetlights were out."

Fire accidents have also increased, especially at night when lights go out unexpectedly, causing people to forget to turn off appliances, leading to fires. A resident in South Okkalapa, Yangon, described, "There have been many cases of fires recently, especially when the lights go out at night, and people forget to turn off their appliances. When the power comes back on, it causes the fires to start."

Economic Hardships

The impact of electricity shortages has made it difficult for businesses, especially those

that rely on electricity for food storage or factory production. Large supermarkets, for example, depend on electricity to keep food fresh. Without power, they face spoilage and loss of income. Factory owners, too, have been impacted by frequent power outages. "When the electricity goes out, machines stop, and factories come to a halt," said a garment factory owner.

To cope with the outages, some businesses have turned to generators, but this has significantly increased operating costs. The cost of running a generator is about five times higher than regular electricity, leading to increased prices for goods and services. A factory owner in Yangon said, "The price of fuel for generators has skyrocketed, and this, in turn, increases the cost of production. Some factories have even had to reduce their workforce or close temporarily due to the power crisis." [Excessive generator use has not only contributed to air pollution but also exacerbated health problems linked to poor air quality.]

Education Crisis for Youth

"I never made a passport because I never intended to leave the country. I was worried that my mother might pressure me into leaving for her own protection. But I wanted to stay in the country and fight against the junta. I want to be with my people. I want to fight alongside them."

Young people in the city have been severely affected by the power outages, especially when it comes to education. With the power off, many students struggle to attend online classes or complete assignments, as their phones and devices run out of battery, and they can't access the internet. A young woman from Yangon said, "When the power goes out, I can't study. I don't have enough battery to continue my lessons, and without Wi-Fi, I can't attend classes online. This has made it extremely difficult to pursue my education." Young people's educational progress has been

hindered by the constant interruptions in power supply, leaving them feeling frustrated and disheartened.

Mental Health Strain Due to Power Cuts

The ongoing electricity problems have also had a psychological impact on people. Many residents in Yangon and other areas report feeling anxious and stressed as they wait for power to return. "At night, I can't sleep because I'm waiting for the power to come back on. It makes me anxious and restless," said one Yangon resident. The uncertainty of power availability has caused significant mental strain on individuals, who are often unable to carry out their daily routines.

Another woman shared, "I feel like I'm trapped in the dark. With the power out, I'm stuck at home all day. It's hard to stay motivated when everything around you feels chaotic."

The Military's Explanation vs. Reality

The military government has given several reasons for the power crisis, including damage to power lines caused by resistance forces and natural disasters, such as floods. However, many experts believe the root causes are tied to economic issues, such as foreign investment withdrawals and inflation.

General Min Aung Hlaing, the military leader, recently spoke about the failed energy project attributing it to the current electricity shortage. The Myitsone Dam, a large hydropower project agreed upon with China in 2006, was suspended in 2011 due to protests from the public, including political opposition. The military leader blamed the suspension for the current energy crisis, but critics argue that the true reason lies in a combination of economic mismanagement and corruption within the junta.

Source: Kachin News Group

Despite the ongoing issues, the junta continues to struggle with delivering consistent power to the country, and residents continue to suffer from the unrelenting challenges that come with the lack of electricity.

ARRESTS & KILLINGS

FROM JAN - TODAY

**Data: January 2 - February 11*

Killed	184
Uncomfirmed	+100
Arrested	468
Currently Detained	328

SINCE 2021

Confirmed Killed	6,286
Unconfirmed Killed	3,000
Arrested	28,574
Currently Detained	21,829
ABFSU Student [Arrested]	55
ABFSU Student [Currently Detained]	32

SOURCE: Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) AAPP
ABFSU Research and Documentation Committee

AIRSTRIKES & BOMBINGS

SINCE 2021

Airstrikes [Recorded]	1,860
Confirmed Deaths	1,853
Internally Displaced	3,668,997

SOURCE: Burma News International

JANUARY 2025

Airstrikes	84

SOURCE: Armed Conflict Monitoring Team

STOP WEAPONS SALES AND JET FUEL EXPORT TO MYANAMR MILITARY

The military continues to indiscriminately bomb villages, schools, and clinics, with many people killed. AVIC has been supporting the Myanmar Military with aviation parts that is used to carry troops, weapons and supplies to commit mass atrocities and war crimes across Burma.

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